

Telephone: 01709 850568

## ST. GERARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

### NEWSLETTER 8 – *Week ending 5<sup>th</sup> November 2010*

#### **Dear Parents/Carers,**

Welcome back to the new half term – with a whole host of exciting events planned between now and the end of term it promises to be a very busy one. It will be an extra special time for the Lunn family as we look forward to our trip to Buckingham Palace in early December for our son to be presented with his Military Cross.

#### **School Mass**

School mass will be on Monday at 9.30 am in church. This week Class 5 will be taking the lead with the mass which has the theme of Remembering our Dead.

#### **Poppies**

In November our thoughts turn especially to loved ones who are no longer with us, it is also the time for the British Legion's Poppy Appeal. Our box of poppies has arrived and they will be on sale through until Remembrance Day. These poppies are not only a way of recognising the sacrifice made by so many soldiers from two World Wars, but also for showing support for those injured, killed or bereaved in current conflicts. The British Legion continues to support servicemen in need and their families.

#### **'Big Talking'**

Please take time support your children by talking about the 'Big Talking' subject with your family and explore your own thoughts, ideas and opinions with them ready for their 'Big Talk' time on Monday mornings. With Bonfire Night taking place this week-end, no doubt the fire men and hospitals will be busy dealing with those who have been injured or involved accidents-

**Our 'Big Talking' theme for this week is: 'Fireworks, what do you think? (good, bad and interesting points!)**

#### **Eden Camp...**

This newsletter is coming out a day early this week as on Friday more than half the school will be missing, as the whole of Key Stage 2 (Classes 3, 4 and 5) will be visiting Eden camp as part of their exploration of their World War 2 topic. I am sure that not only will they have a wonderful day but that the visit will be invaluable in both inspiring and supporting their learning. I look forward hearing all about what they have been finding out.

#### **... and more**

Next week there will be even more visits for the children and a half empty school, as Class 5 take part in the Crucial Crew experience and both Class 1 and 2 visit Valley Park as part of their topic work - I said it was going to be a busy term!

*School visits such as this are carefully chosen to be a vital part of the children's learning experiences. Such visits are not an optional extra that children can choose to take part in or not. We ask that all parents/carers support visits that the school organises. If you have any concerns about any of the visits – or if your child shows any reluctance to participate in any visit, please come into school and discuss this with us.*

#### **Parish Fayre**

On Saturday St. Gerard's parish will be holding their Parish Fayre here in the school hall. Thank you to everyone who brought in contributions to the tombola. I hope our lucky raffle ticket winners enjoy their prizes! There will be lots of things to see and do and buy - and Mrs Marian Glossop will be serving up teas and coffees as well as her famous pie and peas too! The fun starts at 2 pm so please come along and join in the fun.

#### **Open Evening**

Please remember that on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November we have the first Open Evening of the year. These meetings are not only a way for you to find out about what your children are doing at school and how we can work together to help them, but by attending you also give a clear message to your child about how much you value what they do at school. If you have not filled in a reply slip already, please search the 'black hole' in your child's bag for a new one! We are also encouraging the children to come along too so that they can be part of the meeting with their own class teacher. This is a powerful way of showing them the school and the family working together.

#### **'Here I Am' Assembly**

Next Friday morning, 12<sup>th</sup> November at 9.15 am Class 1 will be leading our 'Here I Am' Celebration Assembly for the Invitations topic. These assemblies are a lovely way of sharing what we have been learning in our RE work - one class leads the assembly but each of the other classes make a contribution, too. Please come along and join us – we will even serve teas and coffees for you afterwards!

#### **Healthy Schools: Let's Get Cooking**

This term it is the turn of Class 3 to have their four week block of 'Let's Get Cooking' sessions. Please note the sessions will usually take place on Wednesdays, but as it is Open Evening next week, the session will take place on TUESDAY. If your child is in Class 3 and would like to take part, please return the reply slip as soon as possible.

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**High Fives** (please note the coach has had to change the day to THURSDAY)

This week we have started a High Fives (a netball/basketball type game) after school club each Thursday evening for girls and boys from Class 4 and Class 5. The club will be led by a member of St. Bernard's staff. The children will also get the chance to play in a league with regular games against the other Catholic schools. Please fill in a slip if your child would like to take part.

### Christmas Dinner

Although the shops may be full of cards, wrapping and presents, I know it is still a little early to think about Christmas, but I do need to share information about Christmas dinner this year. Christmas dinner will be served on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December. On that day there will be no other menu choices and no 'grab-a-bag' chilled choice option – Christmas dinner will be the only choice. **If your child usually has a packed lunch from home and would like to have a Christmas dinner instead then please let Mrs Glossop know by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November.**

*We always make Christmas dinner into a special occasion for all of our children– packed lunch and school lunch children all have decorated tables and Christmas crackers - so if your child is having packed lunch please join in by adding some festive lunch items!*

### After School Clubs

Tuesday Lets Get Cooking session 1 for Class 3 (this week Tuesday due to Open Evening)  
Wednesday **No** clubs  
Thursday High Fives classes 4 and 5

### Golden Stars

Stars this week are: Siobhan Buckley, Jessica Jameson, Paisley Cooper, Maddison Churms and Josh Birks

### Birthdays

Harrison Ratcliffe and Jermina Mbombula celebrate their birthdays this week.

## Dates

### Remaining Term dates for 2010 -2011

Autumn 2:	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	to	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December
Spring 1:	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	to	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February
Spring 2:	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	to	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April
	<i>May Day Weekend – School Closed Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April (Training Day) and Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</i>		
Summer 1	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	to	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May
Summer 2	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	to	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July
	<b>Year 6 SATs Week</b>		<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May</b>

### Training Days

(planned so far) - the date has yet to be set for the one remaining day.

#### November

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Community Cohesion training day with St. Bernard's

#### April

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> Focus yet to be agreed

#### November

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Key Stage 2 (Classes 3, 4 and 5) visit Eden Camp *please note: late return at 5300 pm*

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November: Parish Fayre in the school hall from 2.00 pm**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup>

School Mass

Parents group

Rotherham Titans Reading Partners

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>

Class 5 to Crucial Crew

Class 1 and 2 to Valley Park

Carl Walker dance lessons for classes 3 and 4

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>

Parents' Evening from 3.30 pm

Friday 12<sup>th</sup>

Class 1 lead the Here I Am Celebration Assembly @ 9.15 am – all welcome

Better Reading course 9.30 – 2.30 at Silverwood Miners Welfare

My child .....is interested in taking part in Let's Get Cooking after school club.

I will collect my child at 4.15 pm.

Signed ..... Parent/Carer